

TRISOMY 18

Also called: Edwards syndrome, Chromosomal imbalance syndrome, pair 18, trisomy, Complete trisomy 18 syndrome, E3 Trisomy, Trisomy 16-18, Trisomy 18 syndrome, Trisomy E syndrome

Trisomy 18 is a chromosomal condition related to chromosome 18 in which all or part of chromosome 18 appears three times (trisomy) rather than twice in the cells of the body. The extra chromosomal material disrupts the normal course of development, causing the characteristic features of trisomy 18. Trisomy 18 affects approximately 1 in 3,000 to 10,000 live births.

Infants with trisomy 18 have low birth weight; a small, abnormally shaped head; a small jaw; a small mouth; and clenched fists with overlapping fingers. They will have mental retardation, heart defects, hearing loss, eye problems, cleft lip and palate, and organ abnormalities affecting most systems of the body. Affected infants have an extremely high mortality rate; only 5 percent to 10 percent of infants born with trisomy 18 survive the first year of life.

NOTE: This Web page was compiled from a variety of sources including the online resources of Medline Plus, the U.S. National Library of Medicine, St. Louis Children's Hospital and other resources listed below, but is not intended to substitute or replace the professional medical advice you receive from your physician. The content provided here is for informational purposes only, and was not designed to diagnose or treat a health problem or disease. Please consult your health care provider with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this specific condition.

RESOURCES

NOTE: This page contains links to other World Wide Web sites with information about this disorder. The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) hopes you find these sites helpful. Please remember the DHSS does not control nor does it necessarily endorse the information presented on these Web sites.

For a complete list of resources related to birth defects, including state programs and resources, support groups and non-for-profit organizations click on the following link. <http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BirthDefects/Resources.pdf>

Genetic Alliance

<http://www.geneticalliance.org>

March of Dimes

www.marchofdimes.com/

MedLinePlus

<http://www.medlineplus.gov>

National Institutes of Health

<http://www.nih.gov/>

National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)

www.rarediseases.org

St. Louis Children's Hospital

<http://www.stlouischildrens.org/tabid/88/itemid/1187/Trisomy-18-and-13.aspx>

Support Organization For Trisomy 18, 13 and Related disorders

<http://www.trisomy.org/index.php>

GENETIC TERTIARY CENTERS**How to Obtain Genetic Services**

Your family physician can usually provide information regarding genetic services in your area. Genetic clinics are periodically held in a location near you. For information please contact one of the centers listed below.

[Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital](#)

St. Louis, Missouri

314-577-5639

[Children's Hospital at University Hospital and Clinics](#)

Columbia, Missouri

573-882-6991

[Children's Mercy Hospital](#)

Kansas City, Missouri

816-234-3290

[St. Louis Children's Hospital](#)

St. Louis, Missouri

314-454-6093